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of inmates, are all dealt with in the concrete. Elevations and floor plans of various "model institutions" are included in the book and criticized in an appendix.

The administration of the almshouse is discussed as carefully as is its construction. Among the other topics, the author deals with the advantages and dangers of the competitive purchase of supplies and appends a copy of an actual requisition for the supplies of a small almshouse in Indiana. There are also valuable suggestions as to the keeping of institution records, the management of the storeroom, clothing, general order, and cleanliness. One chapter is devoted to the care of the sick and of those various classes which would not be admitted to a home kept strictly for the "aged and infirm." Terms of admission and methods of classification are given for these other inmates, when they must be accepted, but throughout the book Mr. Johnson maintains the position that "they are not properly housed in the almshouse." However, he shows that much can be done with and for these epileptic and feeble-minded persons, and even with the insane, under good management and with kindly treatment.

A number of appendices contain much valuable information, such as the Indiana law for county asylums; papers on the British and Danish systems, and on the inheritance of feeble-mindedness; and various other reports and plans. Everyone connected with the administration of an almshouse, whether as a board member, a superintendent, or one interested in its problems, will find the book very useful.

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*Business the Heart of the Nation.* By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL.

New York: John Lane Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. 291. \$1.50 net.

The book is an unsparing and unqualified arraignment of our economic and governmental system. Business, according to the author, rules the country in its own behalf, regardless of what party is in power. Both of our great political parties were originally organized on broad humanitarian principles, but business very soon, by fair means or foul, took full charge. No single man or group of men is to blame for this condition of affairs. Business is the foundation of our existing system, and the "interests" are an inseparable part and expression of business. Efforts to control or punish the interests upon which we are thus dependent are futile and childish. The pretense of another kind of government than business is mere hypocrisy and enables the interests, by controlling everything, including the press, and by raising the cost of living without a corresponding rise in wages, so to exploit the public that soon, should it be continued much longer, there will be nothing left to exploit. This, however, will be prevented by a rapidly approaching crisis, similar in some respects to that which gave rise to the Republican party and the Civil War. The outcome will be Socialism, which will inaugurate the era of "Business for the Common Good instead of for Private Greed." To those who have heard Mr. Russell or read any of his former writings it is need-

less to say that the book has a briskness of style and a positiveness of statement that give it a certain fascination. The thoughtful reader will, however, require considerable evidence before he feels convinced that all the charges preferred against the present system are well founded, or the remedy proposed satisfactory.

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*Report of the Commission on Country Life.* New York: Sturgis and Walton Co., 1911. 16mo, 150 pp. \$0.75.

This report, which was first submitted to President Roosevelt, is now being published in book form in order that the findings and recommendations of the commission may be made more generally accessible. All who are interested in the work of the commission will be glad of this opportunity for studying the results of its investigations. While it could not, in the time allowed, make a thorough scientific study of any of the problems of farm life, it did furnish a starting-point for succeeding investigations by collecting and compiling all that had been done and by making suggestions as to general lines of work which must be undertaken for the welfare of rural society. It has also succeeded in arousing a great deal of thought and interest among the farmers themselves by its circulars, hearings, and schoolhouse meetings.

The report discloses, in the first place, the main special deficiencies in country life, among which are disregard for the inherent rights of land-workers, bad physical conditions, and problems of agricultural labor. Special recommendations are made with regard to each one of these questions, and general corrective forces which must be set at work to bring about the real regeneration of the country are discussed. The first of these is an agricultural or country-life survey, which would be "a very careful inventory of the entire country" setting forth all kinds of resources. Co-operation among farmers, and the country church are among the other hopeful influences, but the chief need, and the one which is most generally recognized, is that of a redirected education. From this source, which shall furnish new leaders who will be of the country and will know it, the commission expects to obtain those who can bring about the remedial influences which are suggested in this report.

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*Checking the Waste.* By MARY HUSTON GREGORY. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. 318. \$1.25.

The writer has produced this study in conservation with a view to making the problem a matter of responsibility to every member of the state. The entire field has been covered from the wastes of forest, mineral, and agricultural products, to the wastes of health and possibilities of beauty. The volume contains little that is new, but simply presents in a summary form material gathered from previous writers on this subject. As a result of the very general treatment the book is rather elementary. The chapter on soil is not so thorough a discussion as the farmer finds in his agricultural paper, and the chapter on health is what one might expect to see in a textbook for eighth-grade pupils.